

NEWS RELEASE  
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## ISTOOK, RENEAU WIN WAGE RE-SURVEY

*Oklahoma City* - At the request of an Oklahoma Congressman and the State Labor Commissioner, the U.S. Labor Department says it will conduct a new wage survey that could end up saving taxpayers a bundle on construction projects.

After a formal review, the Labor Department has agreed some modification is needed on a previous survey to re-calculate "prevailing wage" rates in Oklahoma. Publicly funded projects over \$600,000 are required to pay a wage rate based largely on local union scale and other variables. Oklahoma Congressman Ernest Istook, (R-5th District), and State Labor Commissioner Brenda Reneau had requested the new survey.

**"I am pleased that once the excessively high number of discrepancies in the last survey were brought to the attention of the Labor Department, this prompt and correct action was taken,"** Istook said.

**"It appears for now that they're doing everything we asked."**

Istook and state and city officials have complained that the latest "prevailing wage" set by the federal government is inaccurate and inconsistent with wages paid in Oklahoma. The most recent survey would have resulted in up to *double* the costs for Oklahoma taxpayers on some projects.

According to OK Labor Commissioner Brenda Reneau, in the absence of only federally determined wage rates, she will investigate and determine fair prevailing wage rates in specific localities.

**"I have been a long-time critic of the methodology used by the Department of Labor in working these determinations because of special interest influence. I want to see accurate rates that**

truly reflect the prevailing rates actually being paid in the construction industry." Reneau said.

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